

Patent Claims

1. Drinks machine, in particular a coffee machine, with an entry device for solid cleaning agent, in particular in pressed form, **characterized by** an automatically dosing, enclosed dosage device (1) for the cleaning agent, which includes a spout (10), a storage container (4) protected from the spout (10) and a dosage unit (8).
2. Drinks machine according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** the dosage unit (8) contains at least one movable dosage chamber (9) through which a certain predetermined amount of cleaning agent can be fed from the storage container (4) into the spout (10).
3. Drinks machine according to Claim 1 or 2, **characterized in that** the dosage unit (8) contains a sensor (17) in the spout (10) for determining the presence and/or absence of cleaning agent.
4. Drinks machine according to one of Claims 1 to 3, **characterized in that** the dosage unit (8) contains a shut-off device (15) for the spout (10).
5. Drinks machine according to Claims 3 and 4, **characterized in that** the shut-off device (15) is arranged after the sensor (17) in the direction of flow.
6. Drinks machine according to one of the Claims 1 to 5, **characterized in that** the dosage unit includes a dosage wheel (7) with a number of dosage chambers (9) arranged at intervals to one another and which can be consecutively aligned flush with the spout (10).
7. Drinks machine according to Claim 6, **characterized in that** the dosage wheel (7) can be driven about a vertical axis and which includes the lower boundary of the storage container (4) in the direction of gravity and that the spout (10) is arranged below the dosage wheel (7).

8. Drinks machine according to Claim 7, **characterized in that** the dosage wheel (7) is formed as a disc and the dosage chambers (9) are formed as through-openings through the disc.
9. Drinks machine according to one of the Claims 2 to 8, **characterized in that** a scraper (11) is provided in the region above the spout (10) to protect the dosage chamber (9) aligned flush with the spout (10) from the storage container (4).
10. Drinks machine according to one of the Claims 1 to 9, **characterized by** the application of cleaning agent in granular form.
11. Drinks machine according to Claims 2 and 10, **characterized in that** the dosage chamber (9) is formed for only accepting one single granulate grain.
12. Drinks machine according to one of the Claims 1 to 11, **characterized in that** the dosage device (1) can be separated into parts, wherein the storage container (4) consists of a housing (4a) which can be removed from a base section (6), the base section (6) includes a dosage wheel (7) of the dosage unit (8) and the base section (6) can be removed from a beam (3) which includes the drive (13, 14) of the dosage wheel (7).
13. Drinks machine according to one of the Claims 1 to 12, **characterized by** a device (15, 16, 17) for preventing an unwanted feed of cleaning agent.
14. Drinks machine according to one of the Claims 1 to 13, **characterized by** a device (19) for determining the filling level in the storage container (4).
15. Drinks machine according to Claim 14, **characterized in that** the device (19) exhibits a part (7c) loaded by the weight of the cleaning agent in the storage container (4), a spring (20) countering the weight of the cleaning agent and loading the part (7c) and a switching device (23, 24), through which the movement of the part (7c) due to the effect of the spring (20) can be determined.

16. Dosage device for a solid cleaning agent, in particular in pressed form, for a drinks machine according to one of the Claims 1 to 15, **characterized by** its enclosed form and automatic dosage with a spout (10), a storage container (4) protected from the spout (10), a dosage unit (8) and connection means (18) for joining to the drinks machine.

FOR INFORMATION